- ♦ Generating Tourist Publications.
- ♦ Re-enforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tours to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Promotion of Tourism in Assam

2207. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism traffic in Assam and North Eastern Region has increased;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to promote tourism in Assam and include it in the tourism map; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs. Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for the tourism projects identified in consultation with the State concerned after ensuring their viability.

Ministry of Tourism has been supporting State Government of Assam for development of tourism infrastructure and during first two years of the Tenth Five-year Plan, Rs. 1081.59 lakh has been sanctioned for this purpose. The process of identification of projects for 2004-05 is under progress.

Sale of Public. Sector Hotels

† 2208. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to sell off certain public sector hotels to private sector;

(b) if so, the name of such hotels and the reasons for selecting these hotels for privatization; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance Government are likely to gain as a result of this privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Sound and light shows at Tourism Spots

2209. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to commission sound and light shows at all major historic-cum-tourist spots in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government of Kamataka has forwarded a proposal for commissioning sound and light show at Kittur Fort in Belgaum District of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Tourism projects including mounting of Sound and Light Shows are identified in consultation with the State Government/U.T. Administrations and sanctioned on merit subject to availability of funds.

(c) and (d) A proposal received in this regard during 2003-04 was not approved.

Tourism Bank

2210. SHRI V.HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to encourage the formation of tourism bank to finance infrastructure required for tourism in the country;